

told the black people not to ride the buses. They did this because they learned that a woman named Rosa Parks was arrested and sent to jail on December 1, 1955 because she would not give up her bus seat to a white man. On November 13, 1956 the Supreme Court ruled that it was against the law to make black people sit at the back of the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. Now they could sit wherever they wanted.

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She grew up on a small farm with her brother, mother and grandparents. In 1932 she married barber and civil rights activist, Raymond Parks. Over the years, Rosa Parks received many awards and honors, including the Medal of Freedom Award, presented by President Clinton in 1996. Rosa Parks died recently on October 25, 2005 at the age of 92.

The boycott was the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in America. On August 28, 1963 Dr. King led the March on Washington. This is where he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. He wanted black and white people to live together in peace in America. In 1964 he received Time magazine's "Man of the Year" award. On July 2, 1964 President Johnson signed the Civil Rights bill into law, which meant that the black people could go wherever they wanted.

On December 10, 1964 Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize, which is one of the greatest honors any man can win. He was only 35 years old when he won the award making him youngest person to receive it.

On April 4, 1968 Dr. King went to Memphis, Tennessee to lead a march to help sanitation workers. He was shot and killed on this day. People all over the world wept. Dr. King made a difference by making black and white people get along.

I am very glad that Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks made a difference in our world.

#### HOW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CHANGED THE WORLD

(By Lauren Perry, Grade 4)

Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks changed the world from being prejudice forever.

Little did the community of Sweet Auburn, Atlanta, Georgia know that on the day of January 15, 1929, baby Martin Luther King Jr. would change the world. As Martin got older, everybody said that the last name King would suit him good.

Martin Luther King had many strong beliefs. He believed in non-segregation. Because of the time, many Americans in the South were separating the whites from the blacks. His other belief was non-violence. He solved many problems non-violently.

His parents always told him to have pride in himself. He always believed that having pride in yourself could take you various places. Believing everyone was equal and being free was the one thing that he would fight for.

He argued many times for the freedom of African Americans to go where they wanted to go and so on and so forth. But he always protested peacefully. He protested to put a stop to racial prejudice. He along with Rosa Parks boycotted many things like being prejudice.

Both African Americans thought segregation and being prejudice was injustice. Rosa Parks got arrested for, what I think, is very unfair. She got arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man.

After that incident, Martin Luther King Jr. knew something had to be done. Martin did many speeches, marches, and protests to bring attention to all Americans on what was going on.

On August 28, 1963 he made the one of the most memorable speeches in history. "I Have a Dream" was his speech. He dreamed that everyone would think that everyone was "brothers and sisters."

After his speech, a law was formed that no one could be prejudice or segregate. Many people's lives were changed by King's memorable speech. But things were about to change for him.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was standing on a hotel balcony talking to a friend, and suddenly . . . Boom! Martin Luther King Jr., at the age of 54, was shot and killed.

People all over the world were upset, but he will be remembered.

So, because of Martin Luther King Jr.'s pride and strength, he was shot and killed. From his strong non-violent beliefs, no segregation or being prejudice is ruining the world today.

#### TWO AMAZING LEADERS

(By Jimmy Kunkle, Grade 5)

Our world would be different if it weren't for two very brave people. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks both fought for equal rights. Rosa Parks was born in 1913, and was very determined. She made a big difference because on December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and she was put in jail. This act determined many people and one of them was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a very important and determined man. He led protests, marches, boycotts and all of his hard work won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. On August 28, 1963, Martin made his "I Have a Dream" Speech. He dreamed that all mankind would be treated equally and that there would be no more violence. On April 4, 1968, he was shot and killed, but we still remember him, and we will never forget him.

So now you can see that two people can make a difference, and they did! They did not only make a difference, but they brought our world together. So that's how two unforgettable people made a world of difference, by not using violence.

#### TRIBUTE TO SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN: A COMMUNITY TREASURE AND LEGEND IN HER OWN TIME

#### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rarely has a single person left so great a mark on a community as Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin.

When Sister Jean, as she is universally known, assumed the presidency of Barry College in 1981, it was a small all-girls institution. When she left nearly 25 years later, it was Barry University, a 9,000 student co-ed institution of higher learning, complete with a law school and a national reputation for excellence.

However, Sister Jean's achievements, as great as they are, pale when compared to the power of her personality and extraordinary impact she has had on virtually everyone she meets.

Last fall, South Florida CEO magazine did a profile of Sister Jean which I think captures some of the spirit of this remarkable woman, and I would like to share it with my colleagues.

#### THE NUN ON THE RUN

It is not every day you meet a nun whose license tag reads "Hugs 1" and whose sentences are punctuated with an endearing "honey." But then again, there is only one Sister Jeanne Marie O'Laughlin.

A few hugs here and a few "honeys" there—along with bulldog tenacity and a refusal to compromise her convictions—have helped O'Laughlin forge bonds with everyone from religious figures to football stars to dignitaries. Her new office at Barry University, where she recently became chancellor, is proof. The corridor is wallpapered with framed photos of O'Laughlin with the pope, presidents, sports stars and scores of other influential people.

About 100 plaques, keys to cities and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's "Sand in My Shoes" award overwhelm glass-enclosed display cases. O'Laughlin says it was tough to choose from the hundreds she received during her 23-year tenure as president of Barry University.

"They just delivered the furniture today. You are my first external guest, honey," O'Laughlin, 76, says in a grandmotherly tone as she points out her private prayer closet. She proudly displays her collection of icons—artistic representations of sanctified Christians that are an integral part of worship in the Catholic faith. Directing attention to an icon of "Jesus the Teacher," O'Laughlin reveals. "With this one I look at the world through his eyes and see the humanity of children." She has a special place in her heart for children of all ages, perhaps because her own childhood, including World War II years spent in Detroit, was strained.

In 1935, when O'Laughlin was barely 6 years old, her mother died in childbirth. Her family became a single-parent household long before it was a societal norm. She describes her father, a draftsman at the Dodge car factory in Detroit, as a "good old Irish dad" who prayed the rosary every day and read the Bible to his family on Sundays. Her childhood memories are a mixture of pain, love and poverty.

"At times you had to pretty well fend for yourself. So maybe my creativity in fundraising came out of that," O'Laughlin laughs now. "But my core values came from my father's training and education. Our family always cared for each other and loved one another. Sharing became an integral part of what we did. My dad cared. He even took in my mother's two brothers and two sisters when they got married. So I had a model even though our family was poor and motherless. I learned that family was important."

O'Laughlin's mother lived on in her imagination, stoked by her Aunt Edna's frequent recounting of stories. One tale in particular would forever direct the course of O'Laughlin's life—and arouse her passion for education.

"Aunt Edna told me that my mother valued education and that her whole desire when she died at age 29 was that her children would be educated. My dad promised her on her deathbed that we would be, and we all got college educations," O'Laughlin solemnly shares. "Missing a mother made me yearn to protect other mothers and babies."

Detroit left its impression, too, and an early experience with racism there, says O'Laughlin, led her to a lifetime of social action.

One day when she was 13 years old, a streetcar O'Laughlin was riding in suddenly jolted. Two black children fell into her lap, and she embraced them during the rest of the journey. To her surprise, when she stepped off the streetcar, a white man spit on her.

"I asked my dad why that man spit on me," recalls O'Laughlin, still obviously disturbed by the decades-old event. "He told me

it was prejudice. I asked him what caused prejudice. He told me it was ignorance. I asked him how you get rid of ignorance. He said education."

The experience left O'Laughlin with a burning desire to help people—all people, and it eventually led her down the path towards joining the Dominican order of nuns. Three years later, she joined the Adrian (Mich.) Dominican Sisters, an international congregation of more than 970 vowed religious women whose roots go back to St. Dominic during the 13th century.

O'Laughlin began professing her first vows at age 17. That initial step towards becoming nun was followed by several years of exploration and training, until she became a permanent member of the order of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian. O'Laughlin took her final vows when she was 21—lying flat on her back in the midst of a battle with respiratory illness so severe her father feared it was her last breath.

After taking her final vows as a nun, O'Laughlin's next priority was getting the education that her mother had wanted for her. She earned a bachelor's degree and began her teaching career in the 1950s. She taught throughout Michigan at St. Agnes in Iron River, Detroit's Dominican High and Dearborn's St. Alphonsus. After she earned a master's degree in biology, the Archdiocese of Tucson, Ariz. hired her as a supervisor of schools. Even then, she continued to attend school, earning a doctorate in education from the University of Arizona.

A watershed moment in O'Laughlin's life was Pope John XXIII's issuance of the Vatican II documents between 1962 and 1965, which made several reforms to the Catholic church. Among the reforms were options for nuns to choose not to wear a habit, the traditional head covering and garment worn for centuries, and to have the choice of returning to their baptismal names or keeping their religious name. That is when O'Laughlin chose to exchange her religious name of Sister John Anthony for her baptismal name, and became Sister Jeanne Marie.

Shortly thereafter, in the late 1960s, O'Laughlin was appointed superintendent of the Adrian Dominican Independent School System, overseeing schools in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and California. The administrative position left her with the experience she would later need to build a thriving university.

"I learned a great deal about diversity during that time because I worked with Indians [Native Americans] and Hispanics. I gained a great respect for various cultures. I learned to look at sameness instead of differences," O'Laughlin says.

Along with her development as an administrator, O'Laughlin continued to evolve her concept of being a woman in the religious order. By 1970, she shed her habit, after examining the rationale of wearing it in light of Vatican II's redefining of nuns as members of the laity and not of the clergy. O'Laughlin says it seemed logical, in that light, for her to dress like the laity. Her sister helped her pick out clothes, which included the fashion of the day.

While today O'Laughlin wears business suits with sophisticated style, she says at the time it was like going from adolescence to menopause in 10 minutes as she began to understand what it meant to be a woman.

"All of a sudden my identity was not neuter. I had to worry about hair and clothing. It was a whole new experience for me. I had no idea how to dress," O'Laughlin says. "I had to learn the things most women learned in the normal maturation process from girl to woman."

She also further reexamined her relationships with non-clergy. "It was always very

easy to define in the habit. I just kept my place and my distance," she says. "As part of the laity, I had to begin relating to the laity on their level as who I was as a woman."

As her career progressed, O'Laughlin became the executive assistant to the president at St. Louis University in St. Louis and also spent time as an adjunct faculty member at the University of San Francisco and Siena Heights College in Adrian before assuming the presidency at Miami Shores-based Barry University in 1981.

#### TRANSFORMING BARRY

When O'Laughlin first took the helm at Barry, it was a small all-girls college. When she retired in June 2005, it was a 9,000-student co-ed university with a law school, an athletics program, and a \$22 million endowment.

After dropping to her knees and dedicating the school to "the Lord"—saying, she recalls, that it was his institution and he had to save it and develop it because she couldn't do it with her own strength—she set out to instill what she calls the "midnight shakes." Her goal was for Barry's mission to be so clear in the minds of the staff that if she suddenly awakened them at midnight they could recite it, nearly in their sleep.

The mission was (and still is) to offer students a quality education, assure a religious dimension to that education, offer a caring environment and provide community service. O'Laughlin saw the biggest challenge to fulfilling that mission and building Barry into Florida's fourth-largest private university was finances.

"It's easy to have dreams and visions, but you need the resources to fulfill those dreams and visions. The most awful thing was worrying at night about the people who worked here getting paid: their mortgages, their car payments, their children," O'Laughlin recalls. "When I got here the payroll was about \$250,000 every two weeks and then it got up to \$2.5 million every two weeks. The greatest challenge to me is to try to reward and keep the people who shared this mission and ministry with us."

O'Laughlin embarked on an exuberant fundraising campaign, often using the sheer force of her personality to fulfill what had become a true mission for her. In fact, some have described her as a cross between P.T. Barnum and Mother Theresa because of her unusual fundraising efforts, which included a lot of arm-twisting and the acceptance of a dare or two.

There was the time she took a \$2 million dare to learn ballroom dancing. O'Laughlin became the first Dominican nun to debut at the US Ballroom Championships, wearing a floor-length royal blue gown. She donned a feather boa and white satin gown on a millionaire's yacht and sang "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" for a \$1.5 million donation.

O'Laughlin's 16-hour days were not only spent building Barry University, but also building the community. In 1987, when Boynton Beach-based community radio station WXEL was plagued with personnel problems, plummeting membership and donations—even a lightning strike on its transmitter, the station turned to Barry University for help, and O'Laughlin led the university's takeover of the station.

Talk of turning the community station over to a Catholic school drew its critics, but those voices were muted when O'Laughlin herself spearheaded the move to wash away the station's \$2.5 million debt with the help of a single donor: Dwayne O. Andreas, retired chairman of agricultural giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. Andreas had donated the money to Barry at the urging of his wife, an alumnus. O'Laughlin asked Andreas if she could use it to save the radio station and he agreed.

O'Laughlin hired Jerry Carr, a broadcasting veteran and turnaround expert who had helped revive Miami's Channel 33 and Paxson television stations. Carr credits O'Laughlin with single-handedly rescuing WXEL from bankruptcy. Many didn't believe O'Laughlin could keep a Catholic agenda out of the station's programming, but Carr says she never told him what to air. In fact, Carr even ran a Planned Parenthood advertising campaign, a taboo subject in the Catholic church.

"I did not even have to ask Sister Jeanne for permission because I knew her heart was to do whatever was necessary to serve the community in a non-sectarian role," Carr recalls. "She always told me I should not do anything other than what was expected in the world of broadcasting. She was the greatest boss I ever had and the most wonderful lady I've ever met in my life." WXEL rebounded and revenues skyrocketed. When Barry took over, the station's net value was \$354,573. It was valued at \$5.93 million when O'Laughlin handed over the chair of the station to Sister Linda Bevilacqua.

O'Laughlin smiles when she talks about WXEL, but admits it wasn't quite a dream come true in every respect. "My dream was to use the radio station as an instrument to increase access to education in the community," she says. "We just didn't have the resources. But God used me as an instrument to save it, and if that's all he wanted and all he wrote, then that's OK. It's a huge success. I am proud of that."

In 1999, O'Laughlin oversaw the launch of Barry's law school in Orlando. She battled for three years to gain accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA). Barry law professor Stanley M. Talcott, who was dean during the battle, says he will always remember O'Laughlin's determination.

"I watched Sister Jeanne as she advocated for the law school. I found her to be extraordinarily effective, well-informed, and just powerful," he says.

#### CHANGING THE MEANING OF "NUN"

O'Laughlin has never taken the easy path, and her life has been tinged with controversy since the Detroit streetcar incident. She proudly calls herself "the nun on the run" because she is constantly on the go and knows she has helped quash some stereotypes about Catholic religious women and women in general—things she never intended to do. As she sees it, she was just following her faith.

In a time when nuns did not typically fraternize with political potentates and influential business leaders, O'Laughlin was the first woman on Miami's influential Orange Bowl Committee and the Non-Group, an informal fraternity of local power brokers. She has served on countless boards and committees and has been urged to run for political office.

Never afraid of being outspoken, O'Laughlin has worked to do more than educate her students. She has labored to fight drug abuse, feed the homeless, assist immigrants and protect children.

"We have to understand the dignity and beauty of each human being, even though we don't agree with them because of a different tradition or history," says O'Laughlin, who has also fostered the most diverse enrollment in Barry's history, with 47 percent of its students identified as black or Latino.

Among her many exploits, O'Laughlin took responsibility for 300 Haitian immigrants when they were released from the Krome Detention Center in 1982 and placed with sponsors who provided them with food, housing, and employment; took in Romanian detainees; helped get residency for an Iranian couple and their children; and found a home for a Chinese baby.

Certainly O'Laughlin's most controversial engagement was her role in 2000's Elian Gonzalez saga. Moved by the little boy whose mother had died while they were fleeing Cuba by raft to the US, she initially acted as a neutral mediator, hosting meetings between the boy's Miami relatives and his Cuban grandmothers in their tug-of-war for custody. Hers was an unpopular position that spawned death threats, bomb threats, and plenty of hate mail.

Then, suddenly, the neutral nun became an ardent advocate for the Miami relatives, urging the government to allow Elian to stay in the US. O'Laughlin says her emotions included fear, compassion, and rejection during a period she describes as one of the most difficult in her life, but insists her faith got her through.

"When I went to bed at night, I had to tell the Lord it was in his hands, and, 'If I offended, I ask pardon. If I haven't, I sure hope you'll help me the next day,'" O'Laughlin reveals. "When I talked to [former Attorney General] Janet Reno about Elian after it was over, she quoted Truman. She said we were both searching for the truth."

Generally, O'Laughlin's disarming manner has been key to her success in helping people, say those who have worked closely with her.

"With the 'honey' here and the 'honey' there, she gets a lot of things accomplished," says Leslie Pantin Jr., chairman of Barry's board of trustees. "She continues to instill in Barry a unique, caring environment while being involved in every major cause we've had in South Florida, from the airport to rebuilding after Hurricane Andrew to the fight against drugs, and of course the Elian Gonzalez position."

O'Laughlin may be loathe to admit it, but one of her toughest fights was her personal battle with lung cancer. She underwent two lung cancer surgeries in the past few years (she never smoked) but has hardly slowed down. After stepping down as Barry's president last summer to allow a new face with a new perspective to take the university to the next level, she continued to focus on education, albeit with a slightly different twist. O'Laughlin's mission now is to teach women how to open universities in developing countries.

"It would be really great if the Lord would let me, before I turn up my toes, play a role in getting schools started and I don't care at what level—because we'll never have peace, we'll never have a legitimate fight against poverty, unless we have education," she says.

In her quasi-retired life, O'Laughlin remains involved in various South Florida organizations, and has faith that the region will become a model that the whole world will envy.

"South Florida has all right ingredients: good people, an embracing climate, and welcoming shores," O'Laughlin says. "My vision and hope is that we continue to open our arms and caress our people and energize them to create a greater state and a greater South Florida by giving their gifts back to this great place."

#### TRIBUTE TO WILFRED "MICKYE" JOHNSON

#### HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an Iowan who serves as a great

community leader and role model for youth, Wilfred "Mickye" Johnson of Cedar Falls.

A native of eastern Iowa, Mickye has worked with the Classic Upward Bound Program at the University of Northern Iowa since 1988, and has been its director since 1994. Through his work, Mickye has helped countless students attend college and receive high-level academic instruction during their high school years.

In addition to his duties with the Upward Bound program, Mickye has had a number of volunteer roles with various groups, including the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans, the Iowa Community Health Leadership Institute, the Waterloo Community Development Board, the Iowa Child Support Advisory Committee, and the Methodist Church Administrative Council. Additionally, he has worked to promote business opportunities and community involvement for African-American professionals and leaders in the Cedar Valley community in Iowa.

Mickye's work on behalf of young people extends beyond the classroom. For seven years now he has been a featured speaker for my Youth Summit, which brings together students from all over eastern Iowa to learn about leadership, education, and teamwork. Mickye has served as a motivational speaker at this event, and he always gives a challenging and productive message to the students in attendance. He has often used the humor of a simple lemon as a prop to impress upon his students the importance of life skills and character education to improve their lives.

Mickye received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Northern Iowa, and also holds a Masters of Education Degree. A believer in lifelong learning, he is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Northern Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mickye Johnson for his good work. His service and leadership in Iowa make him a role model for any believer in education and community service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE REAUME

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mike Reaume for his dedication and commitment to improving the community of Corona, California. On January 14, 2006, the Corona Chamber of Commerce recognized Mike for serving as the chairman of the board for the chamber during 2005.

After joining the Corona Chamber in 1999, Mike quickly became an active member of various chamber committees. His involvement included work with the Website, Ambassadors, and Corona Night with the Angels Committees. While serving on the chamber's board of directors, Mike was elected as vice president, chairman-elect, and, most recently, chairman of the board. In addition to his dedication to the chamber, Mike owns an insurance brokerage firm, Reaume Insurance Services, which specializes in employee benefits for employers and individuals.

During Mike's term as chairman, the chamber continued to grow in membership and de-

velop new strategies to strengthen the relationships within the business community. The chamber exceeded the goals it set for the year by increasing membership up to nearly 1,150 members representing over 35,000 jobs in the region. Furthermore, the new members made an immediate impact by noticeably increasing the participation levels and attendance at chamber events.

Community-based organizations, like chambers of commerce, rely extensively on committed and dynamic individuals who take the initiative to address important issues facing their community. Mike's dedicated service epitomizes the selfless, hard-working spirit that is the backbone of communities throughout our great nation. The Corona Chamber and the community of Corona are significantly better off thanks to Mike's tireless efforts.

I want to express my appreciation for Mike's tremendous contributions on behalf of our entire community and congratulate him on the tremendous leadership he displayed as chairman of the board.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MAYOR WILLIAM J. COOK

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mayor William "Billy Joe" J. Cook of Camden, Arkansas who died Friday, December 16, 2005 at the age of 80.

A Navy veteran, Mayor Cook attended Arkansas Teachers College in Conway where he obtained a dual degree in business and mathematics. Working for ten years as a salesman for Burroughs Business Machines in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and El Dorado, Mayor Cook decided to go into business with his father as a distributor of Texaco products in Camden.

No stranger to public service and remembered for his utmost integrity, Mayor Cook served on the Camden City Council for 7 years and as mayor of Camden for 2 years. In his free time, Mayor Cook enjoyed spending time outdoors tending to his garden and raising Tennessee Walking horses.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Mayor Cook's wife, Helen Lynch Cook; his daughter, Cindy Cook Tittle; and his sister, Weegie Watts. While Mayor Cook may no longer be with us, his legacy and his spirit will always live on in all the lives he touched.

#### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF SANJNA VIJAYA PANDIT

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Rahul and Lavannya Pandit of Houston, Texas, on the birth of their new baby daughter. Sanjna Vijaya Pandit was born on January 12, 2006, at 2:20 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Sanjna has been born into a loving home, where she will